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TEXAS
LABOR MARKET REVIEW

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION NOVEMBER 1990 AUSTIN, TX 78778

SEASONAL TRENDS AFFECT EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment Declines in October

There were 445,000 jobless Texans in mid-October 1990, a decline of over 80,000 from the September level. The actual unemployment rate for the State dropped from 6.2 percent in September to 5.3 percent in October—its lowest level in several years. The State actual rate had not been at 5.3 percent since October 1984. Prior to that, the annual average actual rate was 5.3 in 1981. Part of the decrease in unemployment in October 1990 may be due to a delayed withdrawal of summer jobseekers from the labor force, since the usual September decrease in joblessness did not occur this year. According to the Current Population Survey, there were an estimated 265,100 agricultural workers in Texas in October.

Although total employment in the actual series was down slightly from September to October, the current level of 7,961,100 was moderately above the year-ago estimate. The seasonally adjusted Statewide unemployment rate also dipped over the month, although the decline was not as large. The October seasonally adjusted rate was 5.7 percent, down from 6.3 percent in September and well below the year-ago 6.5 percent. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Nation was unchanged over the month, at 5.7 percent. The actual U. S. rate inched downward from 5.5 percent to 5.4 percent in mid-October. U. S. rates in both series were above their year-ago levels.

Nonfarm Jobs Increase

Nonfarm Salaried Jobs increased by 29,600 from September to October. **Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment** totaled 6,990,400 in mid-October. The number of Nonfarm Salaried Jobs was up by 126,300 from a year ago.

Total **Nonmanufacturing** increased by 27,900 over the month. At 6,024,000, this figure was up 130,900 from October 1989. The largest upswing in Nonmanufacturing occurred in Government which rose by 21,200 over the month. This was due to seasonal factors, as auxiliary staffing for schools was

[continued on page 3]

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
(In Thousands)

	Oct.'90	Sep. '90	Oct.'89
UNITED STATES (ACTUAL)			
Labor Force	125,021.0	124,779.0	124,416.0
Unemployment	6,722.0	6,818.0	6,222.0
Percent Unemployed	5.4%	5.5%	5.0%
Total Employment	118,299.0	117,961.0	118,194.0
UNITED STATES (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)			
Labor Force	124,784.0	124,967.0	124,148.0
Unemployment	7,073.0	7,069.0	6,563.0
Percent Unemployed	5.7%	5.7%	5.3%
Total Employment	117,711.0	117,898.0	117,585.0
STATE OF TEXAS (ACTUAL)			
Labor Force	8,406.1	8,490.7	8,473.6
Unemployment	445.0	525.6	511.1
Percent Unemployed	5.3%	6.2%	6.0%
Total Employment	7,961.1	7,965.1	7,962.5
STATE OF TEXAS (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)			
Labor Force	8,398.0	8,484.0	8,460.0
Unemployment	482.0	531.0	552.0
Percent Unemployed	5.7%	6.3%	6.5%
Total Employment	7,916.0	7,953.0	7,908.0

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES ✦
TEXAS METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

	OCT.'90*	SEP.'90**	OCT.'89**	OCT.'90*	SEP.'90**	OCT.'89**	OCT.'90*	SEP.'90**	OCT.'89**
	ABILENE			AMARILLO			AUSTIN		
Total Civilian Labor Force	51,700	52,500	53,100	95,600	97,500	97,900	431,100	434,700	437,800
Total Unemployment	2,600	3,300	3,100	4,000	5,000	4,900	17,500	20,700	21,000
Percent Unemployed	5.0%	6.3%	5.8%	4.2%	5.1%	5.0%	4.1%	4.8%	4.8%
Total Employment ++	49,100	49,200	50,000	91,600	92,500	93,000	413,600	414,000	416,800
	BEAUMONT-PORT ARTHUR			BRAZORIA			BROWNSVILLE-HARLINGEN		
Total Civilian Labor Force	163,500	166,000	164,100	86,700	87,500	86,200	105,200	107,200	105,600
Total Unemployment	10,000	12,300	12,400	4,200	5,000	5,200	9,600	12,100	11,400
Percent Unemployed	6.1%	7.4%	7.6%	4.8%	5.7%	6.0%	9.1%	11.3%	10.8%
Total Employment ++	153,500	153,700	151,700	82,500	82,500	81,000	95,600	95,100	94,200
	BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION			CORPUS CHRISTI			DALLAS***		
Total Civilian Labor Force	62,900	61,900	62,900	157,300	158,200	158,200	1,443.5	1,451.4	1,459.4
Total Unemployment	1,900	2,200	2,500	10,600	11,400	11,500	67.1	77.5	73.7
Percent Unemployed	3.0%	3.6%	4.0%	6.7%	7.2%	7.3%	4.6%	5.3%	5.1%
Total Employment ++	61,000	59,700	60,400	146,700	146,800	146,700	1,376.4	1,373.9	1,385.7
	EL PASO			FORT WORTH-ARLINGTON			GALVESTON-TEXAS CITY		
Total Civilian Labor Force	252,600	257,000	254,300	727,400	736,200	728,800	109,000	110,800	108,800
Total Unemployment	24,300	28,100	24,400	32,400	37,900	36,000	6,800	8,100	7,700
Percent Unemployed	9.6%	10.9%	9.6%	4.5%	5.1%	4.9%	6.2%	7.3%	7.1%
Total Employment ++	228,300	228,900	229,900	695,000	698,300	692,800	102,200	102,700	101,100
	HOUSTON***			KILLEEN-TEMPLE			LAREDO		
Total Civilian Labor Force	1,701.7	1,718.1	1,695.8	98,200	99,300	98,100	52,800	53,500	53,100
Total Unemployment	79.5	94.7	80.7	6,100	7,000	6,700	4,400	5,000	5,100
Percent Unemployed	4.7%	5.5%	5.3%	6.2%	7.0%	6.8%	8.3%	9.3%	9.6%
Total Employment ++	1,622.2	1,623.4	1,605.1	92,100	92,300	91,400	48,400	48,500	48,000
	LONGVIEW-MARSHALL			LUBBOCK			MCALLEN-EDINBURG-MISSION		
Total Civilian Labor Force	79,700	80,800	80,600	115,300	115,700	115,200	156,300	157,800	157,800
Total Unemployment	4,700	5,800	5,900	5,000	5,800	4,700	22,700	26,800	25,800
Percent Unemployed	5.9%	7.2%	7.3%	4.3%	5.0%	4.1%	14.5%	17.0%	16.3%
Total Employment ++	75,000	75,000	74,700	110,300	109,900	110,500	133,600	131,000	132,000
	MIDLAND			ODESSA			SAN ANGELO		
Total Civilian Labor Force	48,500	48,900	49,700	50,500	51,200	52,000	43,400	44,000	45,300
Total Unemployment	2,200	2,700	2,700	2,300	3,000	3,700	2,000	2,500	2,400
Percent Unemployed	4.5%	5.5%	5.4%	4.6%	5.9%	7.1%	4.6%	5.7%	5.3%
Total Employment ++	46,300	46,200	47,000	48,200	48,200	48,300	41,400	41,500	42,900
	SAN ANTONIO			SHERMAN-DENISON			TEXARKANA		
Total Civilian Labor Force	605,900	612,500	614,800	46,500	46,900	47,600	56,900	57,600	58,400
Total Unemployment	36,600	43,700	41,500	2,200	2,500	2,500	3,000	3,500	3,500
Percent Unemployed	6.0%	7.1%	6.8%	4.7%	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	6.1%	6.0%
Total Employment ++	569,300	568,800	573,300	44,300	44,400	45,100	53,900	54,100	54,900
	TYLER			VICTORIA			WACO		
Total Civilian Labor Force	74,500	75,300	75,900	35,700	35,600	36,300	94,300	95,500	94,500
Total Unemployment	4,100	4,900	4,800	1,600	1,800	1,900	4,700	5,700	4,900
Percent Unemployed	5.5%	6.5%	6.3%	4.5%	5.1%	5.2%	5.0%	6.0%	5.2%
Total Employment ++	70,400	70,400	71,100	34,100	33,800	34,400	89,600	89,800	89,600
	WICHITA FALLS						STATE OF TEXAS***		
Total Civilian Labor Force	55,300	56,200	57,000				8,406.1	8,490.7	8,473.6
Total Unemployment	2,800	3,700	3,000				445.0	525.6	511.1
Percent Unemployed	5.1%	6.6%	5.3%				5.3%	6.2%	6.0%
Total Employment ++	52,500	52,500	54,000				7,961.1	7,965.1	7,962.5

✦ All estimates shown are "actual" (not seasonally adjusted). ++ Total employment includes resident wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households, agricultural workers, and workers involved in labor-management disputes.
* Preliminary – subject to revision. ** Revised. *** In Thousands.

completed for the fall semester, and the increase was reflected primarily in Local Government, up 14,600, and in State Government, up by 7,500. Federal Government fell by 900 due mostly to the end of seasonal jobs. From October '89, Government was up by 40,200.

Services registered an increase of 9,300. At 1,679,100, this figure was up 44,800 from a year ago. The only sector of Services with a loss was Amusement, Including Motion Pictures. This decrease was seasonal, due to continued decline in summer months' activities. The largest Service gains occurred in Health Services, up by 2,800, mostly showing up in Offices and Clinics of Medical Doctors, Dentists, Osteopaths and Other Health Practioners; Educational Services, up by 1,800, due to additional faculty hiring; and Other Services and Miscellaneous, up by 4,500 over the month, due mostly to increases among Fraternal Associations and Parent-Teacher Associations.

Employment expansion in the **Mining** industry, particularly in Oil and Gas Field Services, contributed to an increase of 900 over the month. The October figure of 180,500 had increased by 6,800 over the year.

Losses in Nonmanufacturing occurred in several sectors. Although **Construction** was down by 200 from September, at 326,200 jobs, that figure represented a gain of 8,500 from October '89.

Transportation and Public Utilities lost 2,300 over the month, with the greatest loss seen in Other Transportation. A large loss of almost 3,300 occurred in Water Transportation, which was offset somewhat by a gain of 400 in Transportion by Air. Over the year, Transporation was up by 12,700.

Wholesale and Retail Trade was down by 600, overall, with the largest loss seen in Eating and Drinking Places within Retail Trade. This was a seasonal decline as the peak season waned. The largest increase in Retail Trade was in Food Stores, up by 1,300 over the month. Other increases in Retail Trade were seen in General Merchandise Stores, up by 600, and in Other Retail Trade, up by 400. The overall Trade figure, at 1,708,300, was up, over the year, by 19,000 jobs.

Finance, Insurance and Real Estate dropped by 400 from September. Depository Institutions, Including Banks, was down by 600, while Other Finance, Insurance and Real Estate dropped by 300. These losses were partially nullified by a gain of 500 in Insurance Carriers, Agents and Brokers. The current F.I.R.E. figure of 430,700 was down by 1,100 from October '89.

Manufacturing increased by 1,700 over the month. **Nondurable Goods**, at 416,100 jobs, showed an upswing of 1,800 over the month, and 1,200 over the year. The largest gain in Nondurables occurred in Food and Kindred

[continued on page 7]